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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(US/RO)

International
 Application No.: PCT/US99/09151

International
 Filing Date: 27 April 1999

Priority Date: 30 April 1998

Applicant: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 as represented by THE
 SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT
 OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Title: NUCLEIC ACIDS OF THE M ANTIGEN
 GENE OF *HISTOPLASMA CAPSULATUM*,
 ANTIGENS, VACCINES AND ANTIBODIES,
 METHODS AND KITS FOR DETECTING
 HISTOPLASMAS

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box PCT
 Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
 Attention: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231
 Attn: RO/US

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted herewith for consideration of the above-identified national filing of the International application. Applicants respectfully request that the following new claims be considered in entering the national stage of the above-identified international application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

41. An isolated *Histoplasma Capsulatum* M antigen comprising a mature polypeptide consisting essentially of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 starting with the serine residue of amino acid position 17.

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